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The apparatus of claim 23 further comprising encoder means for detecting the distance moved by said weights during a lift--

REMARKS

Before calculation of the filing fee or commencement of examination, applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment.

Original claims 1-13 and 15-22 have been cancelled, leaving only previously filed claim 14 for examination. The pendency of claim 14 maintains the continuity from the patent application. Claims 23-26 were submitted by Amendment in the parent application on January 10, 1996 and were added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim various features of the invention, consistent with the scope of the originally filed specification, in order to give applicants the protection to which they are entitled. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this material is set forth at pages 7 through 10.

Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested prior to determination of the filing fee. As amended, the application is in proper form for examination.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Mason

Kevin M. Mason, Reg. No. 36,597
Attorneys for Applicants
CUMMINGS & LOCKWOOD
Four Stamford Plaza
P.O. Box 120
Stamford, CT 06904
(203) 351-4377

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